THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (e) Central Bureau of Investigation has informed that they have registered two cases against the two firms and some officials of Safdarjung Hospital. The cases are still under investigation of Central Bureau of Investigation. The extent of loss and other details including persons responsible can be assessed only after the probe is completed. Further action in this matter, if any, will be taken after receipt of the Report of Central Bureau of Investigation.

Liability for sterilisation operations

2249. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to file a revision petition in the Supreme Court against its recent judgement which fixed responsibility on doctors for the success of failure of sterilisation operations; and

(b) if so, Government's stand on doctors' liability as well as rightful compensation due to victims for wrongful surgery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) The Government is studying the judgement and various representations received from State Governments to take a view in the matter.

Controlling Depression

2250. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Depression Ka Kaher", published in the Nav Bharat Times dated 22nd June, 2000;

(b) if so, whether doctors warned in a seminar that depression is second fatal disease in the century after heart attack;

(c) the reasons of being prey to this disease;

(d) the evils of depression; and

(e) the steps being taken to control depression?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Depression is one of the common mental ailments in Society and affects about 3-4% of the global population.

(c) Depression is caused by psycho-social factors like stress and trauma and also by biological factors like imbalance in levels of neuro-trasmitters in the brain and harmones in the human body. It has been postulated that the radical shifts in society towards technology, changes in family and social supports and networks and commercialisation of existence, may be responsible for depression and other psychiatric disorders.

(d) Depression is a major cause of morbidity, not mortality. Depression may lead to the suicides; it may have adverse biologic effects on the immune system, blood clotting, blood pressure, blood vessels and heart rhythms. It is also a major cause of absenteeism at work and loss of productivity.

(e) Depression is a form of mental illness and facilities for treatment are available in a large number of tertiary hospitals both in the Government and Private Sector. To provide better provision of mental health services by developing community based mental health services integrated with existing primary health care services, a District Mental Health Programme has been launched by the Government under National Mental Health Programme in 1996-97, and is under implementation in 22 districts spread over 20 States in the country.

National Population Stabilisation Fund

2251. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Population Stabilisation Fund to achieve the purposes of the National Population Policy, which envisages stabilisation of population growth by 2020;